GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:111
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
TRADE AGREEMENTS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed Free Trade Agreement / Preferential Trade Agreement with several countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise, date-wise in the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment on the impact of these agreements on the domestic industries and farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a)to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 111 FOR ANSWER ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2009 REGARDING " TRADE AGREEMENTS"

(a)& (b) Following Free Trade Agreements /Preferential Trade Agreement have been signed by India in the past three years and the current year:

SN	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	29th June, 2005	1st August, 2005
2	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	July, 1975(revised Agreement signed on Fourth Round of 2nd November, 2005 negotiations started.	1st Nov,1976
3	India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement	8th March, 2006	September, 2007
4	India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	Renewed wef 29th July, 2006	Agreement valid for ten years wef 29th July 2006.
5	India-Nepal Treaty of Trade	6th March 2007	Agreement valid for five years from 6th March 07.

(c)& (d) Before entering into negotiations with its trading partners, studies are undertaken internally, as well as through joint study groups to study the feasibility of the proposed FTAs, including their impact on the domestic industry. Consultations are also held with the domestic stakeholders including the Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, industry associations as well as the administrative Ministries and Departments. In order to protect the interests of the domestic industry, these Agreements provide for maintaining sensitive/ negative lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted under the FTA. In addition, in case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards.